

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-11 cancelled.

12. (Currently Amended) Tail-lift for a vehicle, said tail-lift comprising:

a lifting mechanism for lifting and lowering a platform;

left and right side guiding rails on which the lifting mechanism is suspended with a left plate-shaped vertical carriage depending from the left guiding rail, and a right plate-shaped vertical ~~array~~ carriage depending from the right guiding rail, the left and right carriages being slidably displaceable between a working position located behind the vehicle and a traveling position located below the vehicle;

left and right front guiding elements each with upper sliding members, the left front guiding element being attached into a recess of the left carriage at a right angle to the left carriage and the right front guiding element being attached into a recess of the right carriage at a right angle to the right carriage, the recesses opening to top edges of the left and right carriages; and

left and right rear guiding elements each with lower sliding members, the left rear guiding element being attached into an opening of the left carriage and disposed on the left carriage at a right angle to the left carriage and the right rear guiding element being attached into an opening of the right carriage and disposed on the right carriage at a right angle to the right carriage.

Claim 13 (cancelled)

14. (Previously Presented) Tail-lift according to claim 12, wherein each front guiding element is tiltably disposed and is vertically displaceable with respect to the corresponding carriage.

15. (Previously Presented) Tail-lift according to claim 14, wherein each carriage comprises an abutment surface cooperating with a sliding member of a corresponding front guiding element, each abutment surface being convexly curved.

Claims 16-17 (cancelled).

18. (Previously Presented) Tail-lift according to claim 12, wherein each rear guiding element is tiltably disposed in a corresponding carriage opening and is vertically displaceable with respect to the corresponding carriage.

19. (Previously Presented) Tail-lift according to claim 12, wherein each carriage comprises an abutment surface cooperating with the sliding member of a corresponding rear guiding element, each abutment surface being convexly curved.

20. (Previously Presented) Tail-lift according to claim 12, wherein the front and rear guiding elements project beyond both sides of the carriage.

21. (Previously Presented) Tail-lift according to claim 12, wherein a sliding member of the front and rear guiding elements has a U-shaped cross-section.

22. (Previously Presented) Tail-lift according to claim 21, further comprising front sliding member carriers and rear sliding member carriers each having a U-shaped cross-section, each sliding member carrier and corresponding sliding member being rotated by 90° with respect to one another and about one another over entire surfaces thereof.

23. (Previously Presented) Tail-lift according to claim 12, further comprising front and rear sliding member carriers for holding the upper and lower sliding members respectively.

24. (Previously Presented) Tail-lift according to claim 23, wherein the front sliding member carrier and the rear sliding member carrier each have a U-shaped cross-section and the sliding member carriers and corresponding sliding members are disposed at 90° with respect to one another and about one another over entire surfaces thereof.

Claims 25-29 (cancelled).